

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/902,667	NISHIMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Zoila E. Cabrera	2125	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/15/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,3,10,11,18 and 19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☒ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

1. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

- a) The date of the Japanese Patent Application is wrong, i.e., July 21, **2001**. Please note that the correct filing date is July 21, **2000** as stated in the Certified Priority Document.
- b) It does not identify the mailing address of each inventor. A mailing address is an address at which an inventor customarily receives his or her mail and may be either a home or business address. The mailing address should include the ZIP Code designation. The mailing address may be provided in an application data sheet or a supplemental oath or declaration. See 37 CFR 1.63(c) and 37 CFR 1.76. **Please note that the Post Office Address or mailing address of the fourth inventor is missing.**

Applicant is now required to submit a substitute declaration or oath to correct the deficiencies set forth in this communication. The substitute oath or declaration must be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability" (PTO-37). Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136. Failure to timely file the substitute declaration (or oath) will result in

Art Unit: 2125

ABANDONMENT of the application. The transmittal letter accompanying the declaration (or oath) should indicate the date of the "Notice of Allowance" (PTOL-85) and the application number in the upper right hand corner.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 2-3, 10-11 and 18-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

a) Applicant's arguments filed March 15, 2005 with respect to amended claims 2, 10 and 18 are persuasive, please refer to Page 5, paragraph 5 and Page 6, paragraph 2.

b) The allowability of the claims resides, at least in part, that the closest prior art of record **Inui (US 5,204,821)** does not disclose or suggest, alone or in combination the step of:

Regarding independent claim 2, **correction means for correcting the virtual production line prepared by the virtual production line preparation means according to actual production results of the object, wherein the parts ordering means places a parts order after calculating a parts ordering timing based on the corrected virtual production line**, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 10, **a controller that: corrects the prepared virtual production line according to actual production results of the objects, and places a parts order after calculating the parts ordering timing based on the corrected**

Art Unit: 2125

virtual production line, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 18, **correcting the prepared virtual production line according to actual production results of the objects, and placing a parts order after calculating a parts ordering timing based on the corrected virtual production line**, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zoila E. Cabrera whose telephone number is 571-272-3738. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST (every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on (571) 2723749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Any

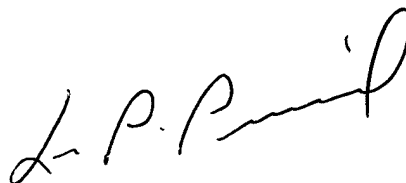
Application/Control Number: 09/902,667

Page 5

Art Unit: 2125

inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9600.

Zoila Cabrera
Patent Examiner
March 24, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. P. Picard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "P" and "C".

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100